

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 USIA-15 TRSE-00

SAM-01 SAJ-01 SS-20 NSC-10 DODE-00 H-03 ACDA-19 OIC-04

IO-14 DRC-01 /154 W

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R 301440Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6458

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION NATO

S E C R E T PARIS 2626

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO, FR

SUBJECT: NATO POLITICAL DIRECTORS MEETINGS

REF: USNATO 344

1. SUMMARY: IN RECENT DISCUSSION WITH US (PRIOR TO RECEIPT OF STATE 17608), SCHRICKE (QUAI CHIEF OF PACTS AND DISARMAMENT AFFAIRS) CONFIRMED NEGATIVE FRENCH POLICY REGARDING PERIODIC POLITICAL DIRECTORS MEETINGS AT NATO. END SUMMARY.

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2. IN ELABORATING ON POINTS MADE BY DE ROSE (PARA 2 REFTTEL) SCHRICKE SAID THERE WAS NO NEED TO CREATE YET ANOTHER CONSULTATIVE MECHANISM IN NATO, ADDING THAT NATO'S PERM REPS ARE COMPETENT TO DEAL WITH FULL SPECTRUM OF NATO CONSULTATIONS IN BRUSSELS. MOREOVER, CONTINUED SCHRICKE, PERM REPS CAN CONSULT IN COMPREHENSIVE, UNHURRIED MANNER, WITH NO ARTIFICIALLY IMPOSED SHORT FUSES AS WOULD BE CASE WITH SPECIAL MEETINGS OF POLITICAL DIRECTORS. SCHRICKE NOTED THAT EUROPEAN POLITICAL DIRECTORS, PARTICULARLY THOSE OF EC COUNTIRES, ARE ALREADY HEAVILY EMPLOYED IN MULTILATERAL POLITICAL CONSULTATIONS. ACCORDING TO SCHRICKE, THEY SIMPLY WOULD NOT HAVE TIME FOR STILL ANOTHER FORM OF INSTITUTIONALIZED CONSULTATION.

3. IN VOLUNTEERING THIS HOW VIEW OF HOW NATO CONSULTATIVE PROCESS MIGHT BE IMPORVED, SCHRICKE SAID THAT THERE ARE REALLY TWO FORMS ON CONSULTATION. THE FIRST INVOLVES "TRUE" CONSULTATION WHERE NATIONAL VIEWS ARE COMPARED BEFORE FINAL DECISIONS ARE ARRIVED AT. THE SECOND FORM INVOLVES "EXCHANGE OF VIEWS" WHERE NATIONAL DECISIONS HAVE ALREADY BEEN MADE AND CONSULTATION PERFORMS FUNCTION OF INSURING THAT EACH COUNTRY IS FULLY INFORMED OF THESE DECISIONS. IN BOTH CASES, NATO INSTITUTIONS ALREADY EXIST FOR CONSULTATION. WHAT IS NEEDED NOW, HE CONCLUDED, IS BETTER USE OF EXISTING FACILITIES.

4. COMMENT: WE SUSPECT SCHRICKE'S COMMENTS ACCURATELY REFLECT STATE OF CURRENT GOF THINKING OF THIS ISSUE. WHILE FRENCH ARE CASTING THEIR OPPOSITION GENERALLY IN TERMS OF PROCEDURAL ISSUES, THEIR COMMENTS HAVE UNDERSCORED THEIR BELIEF THAT PRINCIPLE OF MEANINGFUL CONSULTATION DEPENDS ON WILLINGNESS OF PARTIES INVOLVED TO USE CONSULTATIVE MACHINERY, NOT ON CREATION OF NEW MACHINERY. EVEN THOUGH FRENCH TRACK RECORD ON UTILIZING NATO FOR CONSULTATION IS RATHER BAD, THIS HAS NOT DETERRED THEM FROM POINTING ACCUSING FINGER AT U.S. FOR FAILURE TO CONSULT ADEQUATELY WITH NATO ALLIES ON ISSUES OF IMPORTANCE TO EUROPEANS. ALTHOUGH FRENCH HAVE NOT MADE POINT TO US IN SO MANY WORDS, WE SUSPECT THEY INTERPRET

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THIS U.S. INITIATIVE AS ATTEMPT TO SUBMERGE FLEDGLING EC NINE POLITICAL CONSULTATIONS IN LARGER NATO POLITICAL DIRECTORS CONSULTATIONS WHERE, IN FRENCH VIEW, U.S. HAS COMMANDING POSITION.

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